



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle



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LABOR AIMS HIGHER FOR HUNTER REGION

Federal Labor's \$215m Community Engagement Fund will put back the \$3.75m funding Brendan Nelson took away when he removed Newcastle University's regional status, and will deliver \$6 m over four years including \$1.2 m going to the Ourimbah campus.

Last October in a stunning back flip, Brendan Nelson reinstated regional funding to Wollongong University but denied Newcastle University access to special regional funds. Labor has heard the pleas from Newcastle University and will fund Newcastle University's community leadership role in our region.

A Latham Labor Government will deliver desperately needed funding to Newcastle University to support its special leadership role in the local community.

Labor wants to encourage universities to engage with communities, particularly in outer-suburban, regional and rural areas where strong links with the local university can greatly assist regional economic and social development.

With lower than average university participation, Newcastle University operates many engagement strategies, particularly Newstep and Open Foundation - the largest enabling program in the country - helping more people gain access to university.

Labor's Community Engagement Fund will also allow Newcastle University to propose new forms of community engagement and local partnerships appropriate for our region.

Brendan Nelson had no answers to Sharon Grierson's questions in parliament when it came to Newcastle University. The only answer he has in the election to engaging regional students is "user pays".

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